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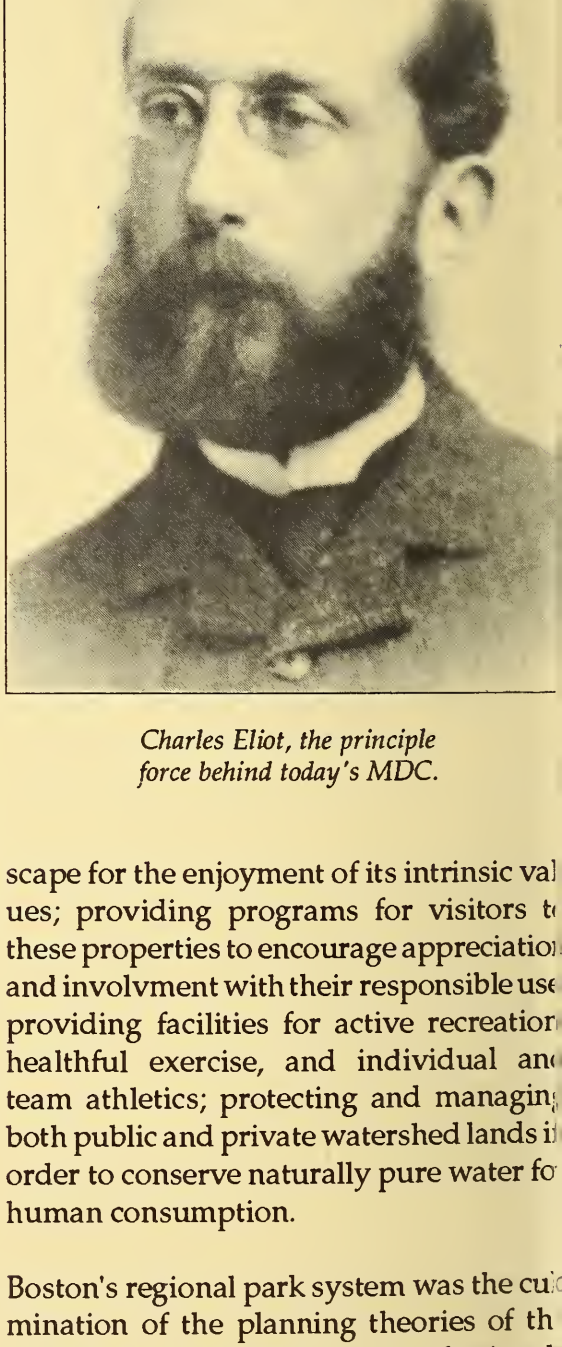
Metropolitan District Commission
FACILITY GUIDE

"Preserving the past... protecting the future."

The Metropolitan District Commission is a unique multi-service agency with broad responsibilities for the preservation, maintenance and enhancement of the natural, scenic, historic and aesthetic qualities of the environment within the thirty-four cities and towns of metropolitan Boston. As city and town boundaries follow the middle of a river or bisect an important woodland, a metropolitan organization that can manage the entire natural resource as a single entity is essential to its protection.

Since 1893, the Metropolitan District Commission has preserved the region's unique resources and landscape character by acquiring and protecting park lands, river corridors and coastal areas; reclaiming and restoring abused and neglected sites and setting aside areas of great scenic beauty as reservations for the refreshment, recreation and health of the region's residents. This open space is connected by a network of landscaped parkways and bridges that are extensions of the parks themselves.



Charles Eliot, the principle force behind today's MDC.

The Commission is also responsible for a vast watershed and reservoir system, 120,000 acres of land and water resources, that provides pure water from pristine areas to 2.5 million people. These watershed lands are home to many rare and endangered species and comprise the only extensive wilderness areas of Massachusetts.

In exercising ongoing stewardship for these irreplaceable resources and to ensure their preservation for present and future generations, the Commission is commited to: planning, acquiring, designing and safely managing its properties; recognizing that each property is part of a larger dynamic resource system; preserving the natural and cultural diversity of the landscape for the enjoyment of its intrinsic val ues; providing programs for visitors t these properties to encourage appreciatio and involvment with their responsible use providing facilities for active recreatior healthful exercise, and individual an team athletics; protecting and managing both public and private watershed lands i order to conserve naturally pure water fo human consumption.

Boston's regional park system was the cu mination of the planning theories of th country's first generation of professional in the new field of Landscape Architecture including Robert Morris Copeland, H.W.S Cleveland and Frederick Law Olmsted The most active organizers of the new metropolitan parks were Sylvester Baxte

a journalist from Melrose with a particular interest in European town planning and Charles Eliot, son of the president of Harvard University, who had apprenticed with Olmsted in the 1880's. Eliot became a partner in the firm of Olmsted, Olmsted & Eliot soon after he completed the landmark metropolitan park report of 1893.

The organizational accomplishments of Eliot and Baxter (the organization of the Trustees of Reservations in 1891, the temporary Parks Commission legislation of 1892 and the Metropolitan Park Commission created in 1893) were matched by the energy with which the Metropolitan District Commission acquired the basic lands of the system.

The Parks and Parkways system established in 1893 is widely known as the first metropolitan parks system in the United States and one of America's first successful efforts in regional planning.

In its first eighteen months, the Metropolitan Parks Commission acquired the Beaver Brook and Waverly Oaks properties in Belmont and Waltham and most of the acreage for the Blue Hills, Middlesex Fells and Stony Brook Reservations. By 1897, the year of Eliot's untimely death at the age of 37, the first purchases had been made for reservations along Revere Beach and the Charles River. Takings had also been made for the first five parkways at the Blue Hills, the Fells, Revere Beach, and along the Mystic and Neponset Rivers. Including interest to be paid through 1900 the cost of these acquisitions, totalling some 7,000 acres, was $6,800. These accomplishments were widely celebrated.

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METROPOLITAN PARKS SYSTEM MAP

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Recreational Facilities and Programs

The Metropolitan District Commission's Division of Recreational Facilities and Programs offers a wide variety of activities for all ages, all year long! Along with 20 skating rinks and 17 swimming pools, the MDC maintains hundreds of basketball courts, athletic fields and playgrounds, as well as miles of beautiful beaches. If you would like more information on a certain facility please call one of our district offices:

Charles District (617) 727-4708

Arlington, Belmont, Boston, Brighton, Cambridge, Charlestown, North End, Somerville, Waltham, Watertown, Wellesley and Weston.

Mystic District (617) 662-8370

Chelsea, East Boston, Everett, Lynn, Malden, Medford, Melrose, Nahant, Revere, Saugus, Stoneham, Winthrop, Winchester and Wakefield.

Harbor District (617) 727-8865

Dorchester, Hull, Mattapan, Quincy, Roxbury, South Boston and Weymouth.

Neponset District (617) 727-6034

Canton, Cleveland Circle, Dedham, Hyde Park, Jamaica Plain, Milton, Randolph and West Roxbury.

Southwest Corridor Park (617) 727-0057

Boston, Back Bay, South End, Roxbury, Jamaica Plain, and Hyde Park.

Permit Information

Permits are required for MDC recreational sites for picnics (groups of 25 or more), athletic field use and special use such as road races, filming, and parades. There is a permit fee.
ALCOHOL IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED ON ALL MDC PROPERTY.

Obtaining a Permit
For a picnic permit or athletic facility permit contact the District Office which has jurisdiction over the area in which you need a permit (listed above). Special Use Permits may be obtained by calling the Recreation Office at (617) 727-7090 for an application.

The application must be submitted at least 6-8 weeks in advance. Alcohol; marking light poles, trees, barrels and sidewalks; open fires; and soliciting money (i.e. entry fees) are **strictly prohibited** on MDC property. Permitees will be responsible to pay for permit fees and staffing if necessary.
Fees are to be paid by check or money order payable to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Athletic Fields

Season: Mid-April to the end of October
Lighted Fields-Seven days/week 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m.
Non-Lighted Fields-Seven days/week 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
FEES: Fees will be assessed to all groups using any type of athletic field or facility except municipally sponsored and youth groups, which shall pay 50% of the fee. (Ex: Little League, Babe Ruth, CYO, Junior and Senior High Schools.) Permits are required for all activities unless otherwise noted.
Please call the District Office for permits and fees.

Charles District 727-4708

BOSTON-LEIDERMAN FIELD, Charles Street, West End (baseball, football, softball)
BELMONT/WALTHAM-WAVERLY OAKS, Trapelo Rd. (softball, basketball, no permit required)
BRIGHTON-DALY RECREATION CENTER, Nonantum Road (football, softball, lighted)
CAMBRIDGE-MAGAZINE BEACH FIELD, Memorial Drive (football, little league, softball)
SOMERVILLE-FOSS PARK, McGrath Hwy. (baseball, basketball, football, little league, soccer)
SOMERVILLE-DRAW SEVEN PARK, Foley Street (soccer)
SOMERVILLE-DILBOY FIELD, Alewife Brook Pkwy. (baseball, basketball, football, little league, soccer)

Mystic District 662-8370

EAST BOSTON-CONSTITUTION BEACH, Orient Heights (softball, handball, basketball, lighted)
EVERETT-ALLIED VETERANS RECREATION CENTER, Elm Street (basketball)
MEDFORD-HORMEL STADIUM, Veterans Mem. Pkwy. (baseball, football, little league, track, rugby, soccer)
NAHANT-MEEHAN LITTLE LEAGUE FIELD, O'CONNOR FIELD, (basketball, little league, handball, tennis)

Harbor District 727-8865

DORCHESTER-McMORROW PLAYGROUND, Victory Road (baseball, little league, softball, basketball)
DORCHESTER-TOOHIG PLAYGROUND, Gallivan Boulevard (softball, little league, basketball)
DORCHESTER-LEAHY RECREATIONAL AREA, Morrisey Boulevard (softball, basketball)
SOUTH BOSTON-EVANS FIELD, Day Boulevard (baseball, football, little league, softball, track)
QUINCY-SHEA LITTLE LEAGUE FIELD, Willard, Street (little league, tennis)

Neponset District 727-6034

DORCHESTER-LOWER MILLS VFW PLAYGROUND, Ventura Street (little league, basketball)
HYDE PARK-KELLY FIELD, Turtle Pond Parkway (baseball, softball, football, soccer, lighted)
HYDE PARK-COLELLA PLAYGROUND, Readville Street (baseball, basketball, little league)
HYDE PARK-CONNELL FIELD, Enneking Parkway (softball, soccer)
HYDE PARK-GELEWITZ FIELD, Turtle Pond Parkway (little league, softball, lighted)
HYDE PARK-MOYNIHAN FIELD, Truman Highway (little league, basketball, lighted)
HYDE PARK-CAMP MEIGS PLAYGROUND, Stanbro Street (little league, softball, basketball)
JAMAICA PLAIN-SOUTHWEST CORRIDOR PARK, Lamartine Street (little league)
MATTAPAN-RYAN FIELD, River Street (softball, tennis, bathhouse)

Bandstands & Music Shells

Free outdoor concerts featuring a wide variety of music and dance performances are available during the summer months.

Concert Series Schedules

Complete schedules of the concert series are available by sending a business-size, self-addressed, stamped envelope to the MDC Recreational Facilities and Programs Division, 20 Somerset Street, Boston, MA 02108. Please indicate bandstand location.
For Hatch Shell updates and information, please call (617) 727-5215.

BOSTON-HATCH MEMORIAL SHELL, Storrow Drive
HYDE PARK-MARTINI SHELL, Truman Parkway
BRIGHTON-PUBLICK THEATRE, Christian A. Herter Park, Soldiers Field Road
CHELSEA-MARY O'MALLEY PARK, Commandant's Way
EAST BOSTON-CONSTITUTION BEACH, Orient Heights Bathhouse
HULL-BERNIE KING PAVILION, Nantasket Beach
JAMAICA PLAIN-STONY BROOK DECK, Southwest Corridor Park
LYNN-RED ROCK, Lynn Shore Drive
MEDFORD-MSGR. JOHN B. CONDON SHELL, Mystic Valley Parkway
MILTON-HOUGHTON'S POND BANDSTAND, Hillside Street, Blue Hills Reservation
QUINCY-CHICKATAWBUT HILL, Chickatawbut Road, Blue Hills Reservation
REVERE-REVERE BEACH BANDSTAND, Revere Beach Boulevard
ROXBURY-MISSION HILL DECK, Southwest Corridor Park
SOUTH BOSTON-MARINE PARK BANDSTAND, Day Boulevard

Beaches

Beaches are open and lifeguards are on duty from late June to early September.

Fresh Water Beaches

MILTON-HOUGHTON'S POND
Blue Hills Reservation, Hillside Street, Routes 128 and 138

SAUGUS-JOHN A.W. PEARCE LAKE
Breakheart Reservation, Forest Street off Lynn Fells Parkway

WINCHESTER-SANDY BEACH, Upper Mystic Lake off Mystic Valley Pkwy.

Salt Water Beaches

BOSTON-LOVELLS ISLAND, Boston Harbor
DORCHESTER-MALIBU BEACH, Morrissey Boulevard
DORCHESTER-SAVIN HILL BEACH, Morrissey Boulevard
DORCHESTER-TENEAN BEACH, Morrissey Boulevard
EAST BOSTON-CONSTITUTION BEACH, Orient Heights
HULL-NANTASKET BEACH, Nantasket Avenue
LYNN-KING'S BEACH, Lynn Shore Drive
LYNN-LYNN BEACH, Lynn Shore Drive
NAHANT-NAHANT BEACH, Nahant Road
QUINCY-WOLLASTON BEACH, Quincy Shore Drive
REVERE-REVERE BEACH, Revere Beach Parkway
REVERE-SHORT BEACH, Winthrop Parkway
SOUTH BOSTON-CARSON BEACH, Day Boulevard
SOUTH BOSTON-CASTLE ISLAND, Day Boulevard
SOUTH BOSTON-CITY POINT, Day Boulevard
SOUTH BOSTON-M STREET BEACH, Day Boulevard
SOUTH BOSTON-PLEASURE BAY, Day Boulevard
WINTHROP-WINTHROP BEACH, Winthrop Parkway

Bicycle Paths

DR. PAUL DUDLEY WHITE CHARLES RIVER BIKE PATH, Boston, Cambridge, Newton, Watertown. Approximately 18-mile circuit between Science Park and Watertown Square.

STONY BROOK RESERVATION BIKE PATH, Turtle Pond Parkway, West Roxbury, Hyde Park. See page 22 for directions.

MYSTIC RIVER RESERVATION BIKE PATH, Somerville and Everett, 3.5 mile-long loop from the Wellington Bridge in Somerville along the Mystic River to beyond the Wellington Bridge in Everett.

PIERRE LALLEMENT BIKE PATH, Southwest Corridor Park, South End/Roxbury, 5 miles from Franklin Park to Copley Place.

Boating

Landing Areas

BOSTON-CHARLES RIVER
Clarendon Street, Back Bay
Hatch Shell, Embankment Road
Pinckney Street, Back Bay
Brooks Street at Nonantum Road, Brighton
Artesani Playground off Soldiers Field Road, Brighton
Charles River Dam at the Museum of Science

BOSTON HARBOR
Georges Island, Lovells Island, Peddocks Island

CAMBRIDGE-CHARLES RIVER
Cambridge Parkway near Longfellow Bridge
Memorial Drive opposite Magazine Street

SOMERVILLE-Blessing of the Bay, Mystic River, Shore Drive near Rt. 93.

SOUTH BOSTON, Kelly's Landing, Day Boulevard

WATERTOWN-CHARLES RIVER, Watertown Square

Launching Areas

BOSTON, CHARLES RIVER-Daly Recreational Center,
Nonantum Road, Brighton/Newton.

CAMBRIDGE, CHARLES RIVER-Magazine Beach off Memorial Drive (cartop boats only)

MEDFORD, MYSTIC RIVER-Wellington Yacht Club

NAHANT, NAHANT BEACH-Harbor side

Camping

BOSTON HARBOR-LOVELLS AND PEDDOCKS ISLANDS
A permit to camp on Lovells and Peddocks Islands must be obtained by writing to the MDC Reservations and Historic Sites, 98 Taylor Street, Dorchester. Pets and alcohol are **not** allowed. Free water taxi service leaves Georges Island daily and visits Lovells, Peddocks, Gallops, Grape and Bumpkin Islands. For further information about the Harbor Islands State Park call 727-5290. (See page 27 for ferry info and page18 for permit info.)

SAUGUS-CAMP NIHAN
Walnut Street, Route 129. This 60+ acre site adjacent to the Breakheart Reservation provides overnight camping for supervised youth groups belonging to non-profit organizations. The facilities at Camp Nihan include: 4 cabins with bunks housing 12 persons each, 6 campsites (each campsite can accommodate 25-30 people) and the first four campsites have charcoal grills, swimming (pond), hiking, fishing, canoeing, cross-country skiing. Call (617) 727-5250 for permit information. (See page 20 for directions to Breakheart Reservation.)

Canoeing

Canoe Launches

NEWTON-RIVERSIDE CANOE LAUNCH, Charles River

NEEDHAM-CANOE LAUNCH, Charles River, Kendrick Street

NEEDHAM-VILLAGE FALLS, Charles River, Redwing Bay

WELLESLEY-WESTGATE CANOE LAUNCH, Charles River

WESTON-RIVERSIDE RECREATION AREA
Charles River, Route 128, Exit 23

Canoe Rentals & Instruction

NEWTON-CHARLES RIVER RECREATION INC. CANOE AND KAYAK INSTRUCTION
2401 Commonwealth Ave. (617) 965-5110
Season: Early April to late October. Weekdays, 10:00 a.m. to dusk; weekends, 9:00 a.m. to dusk.
Many levels of instruction are offered for canoes, kayaks, and rowing.
Please call for more information and availability.

Fishing

Fresh Water Fishing

BELCHERTOWN-QUABBIN RESERVOIR
25,216 acre water area, located 65 miles west of Boston. See page 32 for more information.

BELMONT-MILLS POND, Beaver Brook Reservation, Mill Street
Also offered-children's fishing area. See page 19 for directions.

BOSTON TO WESTON, CHARLES RIVER, Shore Fishing

CLINTON-WACHUSETT RESERVOIR
Thirty-six miles of shoreline. See page 32 for more information.

HYDE PARK, STONY BROOK RESERVATION, Turtle Pond. See page 22 for directions.

MALDEN-FELLSMERE POND, Fellsway East, Children's Fishing

MEDFORD-QUARTER MILE POND
Middlesex Fells Reservation, Woodland Road. See page 21 for directions.

MILTON-CANTON
BLUE HILL RIVER, Blue Hills Reservation
HOUGHTON'S POND, Hillside Street
HULTMAN'S POND, Blue Hills Parkway and Canton Street
PINE TREE BROOK, Harland Street and Unquity Road
PONKAPOAG POND, Randolph Street

NEEDHAM-CUTLER PARK, Kendrick Street

QUINCY-ST. MORITZ POND, Off Furnace Brook Parkway

QUINCY-OLD HARBOR PARK, Harbor Point

SAUGUS-PEARCE AND SILVER LAKES
Breakheart Reservation, Lynn Fells Parkway near Route 1.

STONEHAM-DARK HOLLOW POND
Middlesex Fells Reservation, Rt. 28

SOUTHBORO-SUDBURY RESERVOIR
Thirty-eight miles of shore fishing. See page 32 for more information.

WINCHESTER-ABERJONA RIVER
Middlesex Fells Reservation, Mystic Valley Parkway

WINCHESTER/MEDFORD-MYSTIC LAKES
MYSTIC RIVER RESERVATION, Mystic Valley Parkway

Salt Water Fishing

BOSTON HARBOR-GEORGES, LOVELLS and PEDDOCCKS ISLANDS

LYNN-LYNN FISHING PIER, Lynnway at General Edwards Bridge

NAHANT-NAHANT BEACH, Nahant Causeway

QUINCY-BLACK'S CREEK, Quincy Shore Drive, (Surf casting)

REVERE-REVERE BEACH, Revere Beach Boulevard

SOUTH BOSTON-JOHN J. MC CORKLE FISHING PIER, Day Boulevard

SOUTH BOSTON-CITY POINT, Rotunda, Day Boulevard, (Pier Fishing)

Ice Fishing

CHARLES RIVER LAKES DISTRICT (only at designated areas)
For MDC permit information, call 727-7090 or Bears Den Bait Shop, Waltham (617) 647-0404.

Foot Trails & Bridle Paths

Trail maps are available at the Reservation Headquarters.

BLUE HILLS RESERVATION (617) 698-1802
Braintree, Canton, Milton, Randolph and Quincy. See page 20 for directions.

MIDDLESEX FELLS RESERVATION (617) 662-5214
Malden, Medford, Melrose, Stoneham, and Winchester. See page 21 for directions.

BREAKHEART RESERVATION (617) 233-0834
Saugus, Wakefield, See page 20 for directions.

STONYBROOK RESERVATION (617) 698-1802
Hyde Park, West Roxbury. See page 22 for directions.

Golf Courses

CANTON
PONKAPOAG GOLF COURSE, (617) 828-4242.
Season: Early April to early December
Hours: 5:30am to dusk, seven days per week.

Ponkapoag Golf Course, home of the New England CYO Tournament and the New England Junior Golf Tournament, is one of the few 36-hole facilities in Massachusetts. Course #1 is long, narrow and of championship caliber. Course #2 is average length, wide, and easily adaptable for the average golfer.

Features: Thirty-six holes, practice green, full driving range, snack bar, full pro shop, lessons.
Route 138 off Rte. 128, Exit 2.

WESTON
LEO J. MARTIN MEMORIAL GOLF COURSE, (617) 894-4903.
Season: Early April to early December
Hours: 5:30am to dusk, seven days per week.

The Leo J. Martin Golf Course, home of Ouimet Museum and Foundation and the Mass. Golf Association, began play in the 1930's. During the winter months, the Martin is transformed into the most complete cross-country ski facility in eastern Massachusetts

Features: Eighteen holes, practice green, full driving range, snack bar, full pro shop, lessons.
Route 128 South, Exit 54 to Route 30, right on Concord Road. Route 128 North, Exit 51 to Route 30, left on Park Road.

Museums & Historic Sites

BOSTON-FORT WARREN, Georges Island
This military fort defended Boston Harbor in all United States wars, utilized as a prison during the Civil War for Confederate military and civil personnel. See p. 27 for ferry information.

BOSTON-FORT INDEPENDENCE, Castle Island
Continuous fortification since 1634. Present fort built 1801. See page 29 for more information and directions to Castle Island.

HULL-FORT REVERE
Telegraph Hill, (617) 727-5290
Originally called Fort Independence, this site included a pentagonal fortification with twenty-two cannon. For more information and directions see page 29.

MILTON-TRAILSIDE MUSEUM
Blue Hills Reservation, 1904 Canton Ave. (617) 333-0690
Live animal exhibits and other displays showing the natural history of the Blue Hills area. See page 20 for directions to Blue Hills Reservation.

QUINCY-THE QUINCY HOMESTEAD
34 Butler Road, corner of Hancock Street, (617) 472-5117. Historic homestead built in 1706 with furnishings of the 1822 period.

QUINCY-LIGHTSHIP "NANTUCKET I" WLV 612
Marina Bay, (617) 727-5290 Open seasonally May to October, hours vary
One of the MDC's newest facilities, the Nantucket I WLV 612 was the last U.S. lightship in commission. See page 29 for more information and directions.

WEST ROXBURY-BROOK FARM HISTORIC SITE
Baker Street, 1/3 mile west of VFW Parkway. Open year-round, dawn to dusk. (617) 698-1802
This National Historic Landmark is 179 acres of rolling fields, woodlands, and wetlands. See page 24 for more information and directions.

Observation Towers

EAST BOSTON-BELLE ISLE MARSH (tower - 16 feet)
Views of the marsh, Beachmont, Winthrop, and the Boston Skyline. See page 27 for directions.

CANTON-ELLIOT TOWER (elevation - 640 Feet) Blue Hills Reservation. See p. 19 for directions.

MEDFORD-WRIGHT'S TOWER (elevation - 243 Feet)
Pine Hill, Middlesex Fells Reservation
Excellent views of the Boston skyline, Harbor Islands, Mystic River Valley and the Middlesex Fells Reservation. See page 21 for directions.

MEDFORD-MYSTIC RIVER RESERVATION TOWER (tower - 16 Feet)
Mystic Valley Parkway. Views of the lower Mystic River basin. See page 25 for directions.

MILTON-CHICKATAWBUT TOWER (elevation - 504 Feet)
Blue Hills Reservation, see page 20 for directions.

STONEHAM-BEAR HILL TOWER (elevation - 317 Feet), Middlesex Fells Reservation. Views north to Cape Ann, New Hampshire and west to Mt. Wachusett. See page 21 for directions.

WESTON-NORUMBEGA TOWER (elevation - 110 Feet) Charles River, Rte. 128

Playgrounds

Permits are not required at any playground.

ARLINGTON-Mystic Valley Parkway near High Street
BELMONT/WALTHAM-WAVERLY OAKS, Trapelo Rd. (wading pool)
BELMONT-MILL POND-Beaver Brook Reservation, Mill Street
BOSTON-BERKELEY STREET, Storrow Memorial Embankment, Back Bay
BOSTON-DEERFIELD STREET, Storrow Memorial Embankment, Back Bay
BOSTON-GRANBY STREET, Storrow Memorial Embankment, Back Bay
BOSTON-HEREFORD STREET, Storrow Memorial Embankment, Back Bay
BOSTON-PINCKNEY STREET, Storrow Memorial Embankment, Back Bay
BOSTON-UNION BOAT HOUSE, Storrow Memorial Embankment, Back Bay
BOSTON-CHARLESBANK PARK, Storrow Memorial Embankment, Back Bay
BRIGHTON-RICHARD T. ARTESANI PLAYGROUND, Soldiers Field Road
BRIGHTON-JAMES F. REILLY PLAYGROUND, Cleveland Circle
CAMBRIDGE-MAGAZINE BEACH TOT LOT, Memorial Drive
CAMBRIDGE-MURPHY'S TOT LOT, Greenough Boulevard
DEDHAM-RIVERDALE PARK, Bridge Street
DORCHESTER-MALIBU BEACH PLAYGROUND, Morrisey Boulevard
DORCHESTER-LOWER MILLS VFW MEMORIAL POST, Ventura Street
DORCHESTER-PHILLIP McMORROW PLAYGROUND, Victory Road
DORCHESTER-REV. WILLIAM F. TOOHIG PLAYGROUND, Gallivan Boulevard
DORCHESTER-JAMES E. LEAHY RECREATIONAL AREA, Tenean Beach, Morrisey Boulevard
EAST BOSTON-CONSTITUTION BEACH, Orient Heights
EVERETT-ALLIED VETERANS MEMORIAL RECREATION CENTER, Elm Street

HULL-NANTASKET BEACH TOT LOT, Nantasket Avenue
HYDE PARK-PAUL J. COLELLA MEMORIAL PLAYGROUND, Readville Street
HYDE PARK-JOHN H. DOOLEY PLAYGROUND, Reservation Road
HYDE PARK-WILLIAM A. DOYLE MEMORIAL PLAYGROUND, River Street
HYDE PARK-LAWLER PLAYGROUND, Sunnyside Street
HYDE PARK-JOHN J. MOYNIHAN MEMORIAL PLAYGROUND, Truman Highway
HYDE PARK-JOHN F. THOMPSON CENTER FOR THE HANDICAPPED, Smithfield Road
JAMAICA PLAIN-ANSON STREET TOT LOT, Southwest Corridor Park
JAMAICA PLAIN-ARMORY STREET TOT LOT, Southwest Corridor Park
JAMAICA PLAIN-BOYNTON STREET/McBRIDE STREET TOT LOT, Southwest Corridor Park
JAMAICA PLAIN-EVERETT STREET TOT LOT, Southwest Corridor Park
JAMAICA PLAIN-GREEN STREET/LAMARTINE STREET TOT LOT, Southwest Corridor Park
JAMAICA PLAIN-JOSEPH E. JOHNSON MEMORIAL PLAYGROUND
JAMAICA PLAIN-LAWNDALE TERRACE TOT LOT, Southwest Corridor Park
JAMAICA PLAIN-SPAULDING STREET TOT LOT, Southwest Corridor Park
MATTAPAN-MSGR. FRANCIS A. RYAN MEMORIAL PLAYGROUND,River Street
MATTAPAN-CHARLES R. KENNEDY MEMORIAL PARK, Edgewater Drive (passive park)
MEDFORD-WEST MEDFORD PLAYGROUND, Mystic River Road
MILTON-HOUGHTON'S POND, Blue Hills Reservation, Hillside Street
NAHANT-NAHANT BEACH TOT LOT near parking lot on the beach
QUINCY-WILLIAM R. CADDY MEMORIAL PARK, Quincy Shore Drive
REVERE-GEORGE W. SULLIVAN TOT LOT, Revere Beach Boulevard at Revere Street
ROXBURY-MISSION HILL DECK TOT LOT, Southwest Corridor Park
SAUGUS-PEARCE LAKE, Breakheart Reservation
SAUGUS-PARCHER PARK, Breakheart Reservation
SOMERVILLE-DILBOY FIELD PLAYGROUND, Alewife Brook Parkway
SOMERVILLE-JOHN J. MURPHY, JR. MEMORIAL PLAYGROUND, Foss Park, McGrath Hwy.
SOUTH BOSTON-CASTLE ISLAND PLAYGROUND, Day Boulevard
SOUTH BOSTON-MARINE PARK PLAYGROUND, Day Boulevard
SOUTH END-COSMOPOLITAN PLAYGROUND, Southwest Corridor Park
WATERTOWN-GREENOUGH BOULEVARD PLAYGROUND near Watertown Square
WINCHESTER-SANDY BEACH PLAYGROUND, Mystic Valley Parkway

Running Paths

BOSTON-LEE POOL RUNNING CENTER, approximately 18 miles.
Showers and changing area available. Open mid-April through mid-October, weekdays 7:00am to 6:00pm, weekends 10:00am to 6:00pm. Located across from Mass. General Hospital on Charles Street. For more information call (617) 727-4708.

BRIGHTON, CLEVELAND CIRCLE, 1.6 miles

HULL, NANTASKET BEACH, 3 miles

LYNN/NAHANT BEACH, 5 miles

SAUGUS, BREAKHEART RESERVATION, 3.1 miles

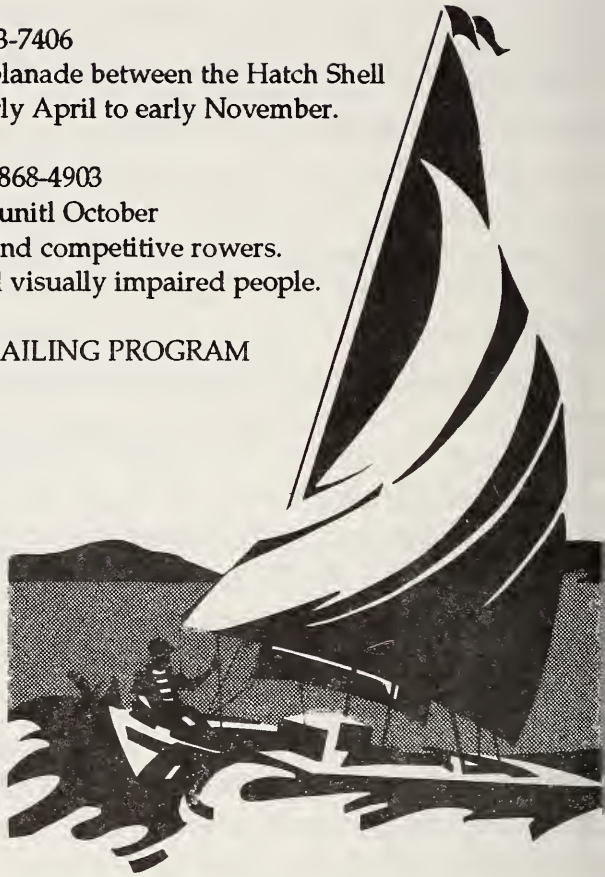
SOUTH BOSTON, CASTLE ISLAND, 6.2 miles

Sailing and Rowing

BOSTON - COMMUNITY BOATING, (617) 523-7406
21 Embankment Road on the Charles River Esplanade between the Hatch Shell and the Longfellow Bridge. Programs from early April to early November.

BRIGHTON - COMMUNITY ROWING, (617) 868-4903
Daly Rink, Nonantum Road. Open from April unitl October
Instruction offered for beginners, recreational and competitive rowers.
Special programs for physically challenged and visually impaired people.

SOUTH BOSTON - HARRY McDONOUGH SAILING PROGRAM
Day Boulevard, Castle Island, (617) 268-8556
Open from late May to early October.
Special programs for visually impaired people.



Skating Rinks

Rinks are open from mid-November to mid-March.
Call the district office for hours and ice rental information.
(C) Concession (R) Skate Rentals (S) Skate Sharpening (L) Lessons

Charles District (617) 727-4708

BOSTON-STERITI MEMORIAL RINK, Commercial Street, 523-9327
BRIGHTON-DALY MEMORIAL RINK, Nonantum Road., 527-1741 (C,R,S, L)
CAMBRIDGE-SIMONI MEMORIAL RINK, Gore Street, 354-9523
CHARLESTOWN-EMMONS-HORRIGAN-O'NEILL MEMORIAL RINK
Rutherford Avenue, 242-9728 (C)
SOMERVILLE-VETERANS MEMORIAL RINK, Somerville Avenue, 623-3523 (C,S)
WALTHAM-VETERANS MEMORIAL RINK, Totten Pond Road, 893-9409 (C, L)

Mystic District (617) 662-8370

EAST BOSTON-PORAZZO MEMORIAL RINK, Constitution Beach, 567-9571 (C, R)
EVERETT-ALLIED VETERAN'S MEMORIAL RINK, Elm Street, 389-8684 (C)
LYNN-CONNERY MEMORIAL RINK, Shepard Street, 599-9474 (C)
MEDFORD-LoCONTE MEMORIAL RINK, Veterans Parkway, 395-9594 (C,R,S)
MEDFORD-FLYNN MEMORIAL RINK, Woodland Road, 395-8492 (C,R,S, L)
REVERE-CRONIN MEMORIAL RINK, Revere Beach Pkwy, 284-9491 (C, S, L)

Harbor District (617) 727-8865

DORCHESTER-DEVINE MEMORIAL RINK, Morrissey Boulevard 436-4356 (C,R)
QUINCY-SHEA MEMORIAL RINK, Willard Street 472-9325 (C,R,S,L)
SOUTH BOSTON-MURPHY MEMORIAL RINK, Day Boulevard 269-7060 (C,R,S)
WEYMOUTH-CONNELL MEMORIAL RINK, Broad Street 335-2090 (C)

Neponset District (617) 727-6034

BRIGHTON-REILLY MEMORIAL RINK, Cleveland Circle, 277-7822 (C, R, S, L)
HYDE PARK-BAJKO MEMORIAL RINK, Turtle Pond Parkway, 364-9188 (C, L)
MILTON-ULIN MEMORIAL RINK, Unquity Road, 696-9869 (C, S, L)
WEST ROXBURY-BRYAN MEMORIAL RINK, VFW Parkway, 323-9512 (L)

Ski Trails

Cross Country

CHARLES RIVER RECREATION INC. CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING (617) 891-6575

Open seven days a week till 10:00 p.m. Sundays until 6:00 p.m. Located at the MDC's Martin Golf Course, 20 minutes from downtown Boston just off the Mass Pike off Route 128, or a 20 minute walk from the MBTA Riverside Station.

Lighted, groomed trails, rentals, sales of new and used equipment, refreshments, showers, lockers, equipment repairs and maintenance, and reduced group rates

Beginner and intermediate lessons are available. For information on schedules and fees, please call 891-6575.

MIDDLESEX FELLS CROSS-COUNTRY SKI TRAIL
Middlesex Fells Reservation, (617) 662-5214

Created by *Harvard Community Health Plan* and the MDC, this free, six-mile trail consists of two loops with a variety of levels. Bulletin boards, maps and trail markers delineate the route. Trailheads are located at the Sheepfold and Bellevue Pond parking lots. The public is welcome during daylight hours. Free trails maps are available. (See page 21 for directions to Middlesex Fells Reservation.)

BLUE HILLS RESERVATION CROSS-COUNTRY SKI TRAIL
Blue Hills Reservation, Milton/Canton, (617)698-1802

Open seven days a week, dawn until dusk. Bulletin boards, amps and trail markers delineate the route. The public is welcome during daylight hours. For more information and trail maps, call the reservation headquarters. (See page 19 for directions.)

Downhill

BLUE HILLS SKI AREA, Blue Hills Reservation, Milton/Canton
Ski School-Tickets, 828-5090 Ski Shop, 828-7300
Ski Conditions, 828-5070 Office, 828-7490
Double chair lifts, snow making, seven slopes, ski patrol, rentals, night skiing, ski shop, ski school, restaurant, and reduced group rates.
(See p. 19 for directions.)

Swimming Pools

Pools are open from late June to early September unless otherwise noted.
Please call the District Office for more information.

Charles District (617) 727-4708

BOSTON-LEE MEMORIAL POOL, Charles Street, West End, 523-9746
BRIGHTON-BRIGHTON/ALLSTON POOL, North Beacon St., 254-2965
CAMBRIDGE-McCREHAN MEMORIAL POOL, Alewife Brook Parkway 354-9154
CAMBRIDGE-VETERANS MEMORIAL POOL, Memorial Drive, 354-9381
SOMERVILLE-DILBOY FIELD MEMORIAL POOL, Alewife Brook Parkway, 623-9321
SOMERVILLE-LATTA BROS. MEMORIAL POOL, McGrath Highway, 623-9174
WALTHAM-CONNORS MEMORIAL POOL, River St. 899-0106
WATERTOWN-DEALTRY MEMORIAL POOL, Pleasant Street 923-0073

Mystic District (617) 662-8370

CHELSEA-VIETNAM VETS. MEMORIAL POOL, Carter Street, 884-9630
EVERETT-ALLIED VETS. MEMORIAL POOL, Elm Street, 389-9401
MALDEN-HOLLAND MEMORIAL POOL, Mountain Avenue, 324-9350
STONEHAM-HALL MEMORIAL POOL, North Border Rd. 438-9888

Harbor District (617) 727-8865

ROXBURY-CASS MEMORIAL POOL, Washington Street, 445-9519
WEYMOUTH-CONNELL MEMORIAL POOL, Broad Street 335-2090.
Both public swimming and group rentals are offered at this year-round swimming pool. Hot and cold showers are available. Programs include: handicapped swimming, lessons, lifesaving classes, lap swimming, water polo, mom & tot swim, aqua aerobics, and special events.

Neponset District (617) 727-6034

BRIGHTON-REILLY MEMORIAL POOL, Cleveland Circle, 277-7822
HYDE PARK-OLSEN MEMORIAL POOL, Turtle Pond Parkway, 364-9731
W. ROXBURY-PHELAN MEMORIAL POOL, VFW Parkway, 322-9512 (Handicap provisions)

Spray Pools

BOSTON-Lee Memorial Pool at Artesani Playground
CAMBRIDGE-McCrehan Memorial Pool at Magazine Beach
EVERETT-Allied Veterans Memorial Pool, Elm Street
HYDE PARK-Moynihan Playground, Truman Highway
HYDE PARK-Olsen Pool, Turtle Pond Parkway
JAMAICA PLAIN-Stony Brook Deck, Southwest Corridor Park
JAMAICA PLAIN-Johnson Playground, Green and Lamartine Streets
ROXBURY-Mission Hill Deck, Southwest Corridor Park
SOMERVILLE-Dilboy Memorial Pool, Alewife Brook Parkway
SOMERVILLE-Foss Park, McGrath Highway at Broadway
STONEHAM-Hall Memorial Pool, North Border Road
WATERTOWN-Dealtry Memorial Pool,Pleasant Street

Tennis Courts

Tennis Courts are open from dawn to dusk. Lighted courts are open until 10:00pm.
(#) Number of courts.

BELMONT/WALTHAM-WAVERLY OAKS, Beaver Brook Reservation (2)
BOSTON-NORTH END PARK, Commercial Street, (2)
BOSTON-CHARLESBANK PARK, Charles Street, (4) (lighted)
CHELSEA-MARY O'MALLEY PARK, Commandant's Way (2)
DEDHAM-RIVERDALE PARK, Bridge Street (1)
DORCHESTER-TENEAN BEACH, Conley Street, (1)
EAST BOSTON-CONSTITUTION BEACH, Orient Heights, (2)
EVERETT-ALLIED VETERANS RECREATION CENTER, Elm Street (2)
HYDE PARK-MARTINI SHELL, Truman Parkway, (2)
HYDE PARK-WEIDER PLAYGROUND, Dale Street, (2) (lighted)
HYDE PARK-DOOLEY PLAYGROUND, Reservation Road, (2)
JAMAICA PLAIN-STONY BROOK DECK, Southwest Corridor Park (2)
MATTAPAN-RYAN PLAYGROUND, River Street (1)
MEDFORD-HORMEL STADIUM, Vets. Memorial Pkwy. (4) (lighted)
MILTON-HOUGHTON'S POND RECREATION CENTER, Route 128, (1)
NAHANT-NAHANT BEACH, Nahant Beach Parkway (5)
QUINCY-Willard Street at Shea Rink (2)
ROXBURY-BROMLEY-HEATH DECK, Southwest Corridor Park (1)
ROXBURY-MISSION HILL DECK, Southwest Corridor Park (2)
SOMERVILLE-GEORGE DILBOY FIELD, Alewife Brook Pkwy (2)
SOMERVILE-SAXTON J. FOSS PARK, McGrath Highway at Broadway (2)
SOUTH BOSTON-MARINE PARK, Day Boulevard, (1) (lighted)
WATERTOWN-CANALOUGA PARK, Pleasant Street (1)

Thompson Center

Smithfield Road and Turtle Pond Parkway, Hyde Park (617) 361-6161

Formally dedicated on July 11, 1980, this playground facility is specifically designed for handicapped and special needs people and is available for individuals and groups. Please call for hours and reservations.
Features: Swings, slides, stocked artificial pond, mini-amphitheater, picnic area, trails, sand box, observation tower, service building and appropriately designed restrooms.

Zoos

FRANKLIN PARK ZOO
Blue Hill Avenue at Columbia Road in Dorchester, (617) 442-2002

WALTER D. STONE MEMORIAL ZOO
Pond Street, Stoneham (617) 438-8420

Metropolitan District Commission

During the past one hundred years, the Metropolitan Parks System has grown in leaps and bounds; from the first open space acquisition of Beaver Brook Reservation in 1893, to our newest addition Rumney Marsh Reservation.

Continuing to perpetuate the ideas of Charles Eliot, the MDC maintains beachfront property along the bay, land along the Charles, Mystic and Neponset Rivers and high ground throughout the area . Along with these open spaces, the MDC has created a series of parkways, built and maintained with aesthetics in mind to make travel between the parks easy and enjoyable.

Today the MDC preserves nearly 15,000 thousand acres of reservations, 25 miles of ocean beaches, 84 miles of riverbank property, 700 lane miles of parkways, and numerous recreational facilities and historic sites.

The Metropolitan District Commission strives to make the parks system safe, accessible, and attractive for all, but we can only maintain these sites with public support and cooperation. Please do your part by respecting each property and complying with all rules and regulations. Thank you.

Metropolitan Parks System Reservations, Recreational Facilities and Parkways

Reservations and Historic Sites

The Metropolitan District Commission's Division of Reservations and Historic Sites preserves open space in and around the metropolitan Boston area. The reservations protect three general ecosystems:

The **WOODLAND RESERVATIONS** encompass the high hills and rocky outcroppings as well as fine examples of New England forest.

The **RIVER RESERVATIONS** protect the major freshwater streams and associated wetlands of the area, helping to assure water quality and river habitat.

The **COASTAL RESERVATIONS** protect the barrier beaches, coastal wetlands and estuary habitats while providing public access to the shore and the Boston Harbor Islands.

This guide will take you through all the various types of reservations and explain the history and unique diversity of each. Natural and cultural history programs are available at many of the reservations to educate the public about this fragile ecosystem.

Permit Information

Permits are required at MDC Reservations for picnics (groups of 25 or more); camping at Lovells and Peddocks Islands; and group visits. There is a permit fee. Camp Nihan in Breakheart Reservation is available (for non-profit groups only) and there is a fee per cabin, per night. ALCOHOL IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED ON ALL MDC PROPERTY.

Obtaining a Permit

Payment, along with the following information is to be sent to the appropriate office (listed below) at least 10 days in advance of desired visit. (Attn: Permit Clerk) Fees are to be paid by check or money order payable to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

A letter must be submitted with the following information:

• Name of group, telephone number and address. • Person responsible for group while in the reservation. • Date for permit. • Name of reservation and specific location. • Arrival and departure times. • Number in group, # of adults, # of children, # of tents (if applicable)

• For islands: Boat line or name and MS# of private boats.

North Region (617) 662-5214

One Wicklow Street, Malden, MA 02148

Includes the following reservations: Beaver Brook, Belle Isle Marsh, Rumney Marsh, Breakheart (Camp Nihan), Middlesex Fells, Mystic River, Forest Grove, and Lynn/Nahant Beach.

Harbor Region (617) 727-5290

98 Taylor Street, Dorchester, MA 02122

Includes the following reservations: Georges, Lovells, and Peddocks Islands, Castle Island, Fort Revere, Lightship Nantucket, and Wollaston Beach.

South Region (617) 698-1802

695 Hillside Street, Milton, MA 02186

Includes the following reservations: Blue Hills, Quincy Quarries, Southwest Corridor Park, Stony Brook, Cutler Park, Brook Farm, Hammond Pond, Hemlock Gorge, Elm Bank, and Village Falls Park.

WOODLAND RESERVATIONS

Beaver Brook Reservation

Mill Street, Belmont/Waltham (617) 484-6357

Open year-round, dawn to dusk.

The first reservation to be set aside by the Metropolitan Parks Commission (later the MDC) in 1893, Beaver Brook Reservation is 59 acres of open fields, wetlands and woodlands. Ponds, fields, marsh, and a cascading waterfall make the park's north section a delightful place to walk or picnic. The more developed south section features recreational amenities of ballfields and a tot-lot.

Beaver Brook's historic significance is amplified by reminders of its past, including the remains of a nineteenth century fulling mill, the historic Plympton House (c. 1835) and a monument to the long-gone Waverly Oaks, perhaps the most famous trees of the 1890's.

Free Programs

Natural history programs offered at Beaver Brook cover topics such as wildlife, the once majestic Waverly Oaks, and the ecosystems of ponds, wetlands and woodlands. Beaver Brook's cultural history is highlighted in programs given at the park (All programs subject to staffing.)

Services and Facilities

Restrooms, first aid, information, ballfield, bicycle path, fishing, picnic area, tot lot.

Directions

MBTA: Red Line to Harvard Station. MBTA-Bus #73, Waverly Square (20 minutes). Exit at Mill St. onto Trapelo Rd. Park is located on either side of Trapelo Rd. Headquarters is on Mill St., the first house on the left. By Car: From Harvard Sq., take Mt. Auburn St. out of Square. Turn right onto Belmont St. At the light, take Trapelo Rd. to Mill St., or take Rt. 2 to Winter St., Belmont. left onto Concord Ave, 100 yards more bear right onto Mill St., entrance is right, or follow Rt. 60 (Pleasant St) until it meets Trapelo Rd., 500 yards on the left is the Waverly Oaks southern section, or take Rt 128 to 28A, approx. 4 miles to Mill St., entrance on left.

Blue Hills Reservation

Hillside Street, Milton, (617) 698-1802

Open year-round dawn to dusk.

Blue Hills Reservation (5,800 acres) adjoins Fowl Meadow Reservation (894 acres) to make up the largest open space within thirty-five miles of Boston. Its varied landscape provides many recreational and educational opportunities. The woodland reservation contains hundreds of different varieties of trees, shrubs and wildflowers that are home to a great diversity of wildlife, some of which are rare to Massachusetts.

The reservation boasts twenty hilltops that range in elevation from 259 feet to the 635 foot Great Blue Hill, the highest point along the Atlantic Coast, south of Maine. Enriching the reservation are more than 50 prehistoric sites, 16 historic structures listed in the National Register of Historic Places, and a National Historic Landmark - the Blue Hills Meteorological Observatory.

On Route 138, the Trailside Museum, operated for the MDC by Massachusetts Audubon Society, houses excellent exhibits of the reservation's natural and cultural history and offers a wide variety of public programs (see page 9). Ponkapoag Golf Course, also within the reservation on Route 138, is an outstanding 36-hole course. Downhill skiing on man-made snow is seasonally available on the face of Great Blue Hill.

continued

Free Programs

Visitor Services staff offer interpretive programs that focus on the area's natural and cultural history, from prehistoric times to present day. Discussions, walks, workshops, and special events are presented year-round on a wide array of topics including wildlife, recreational activities, Native American life and resource management. (All programs subject to staffing.)

Services and Facilities

Restrooms, bathhouse, first aid, information, handicap access, concession, ballfield, bandstand, bicycling, horseback riding, canoeing, fishing, golf course, hiking, observation tower, picnic area, skating rink, cross-country skiing, downhill skiing, swimming, tennis.

Directions

MBTA: West Area-Red Line to Ashmont Station, high speed line to Mattapan, take Canton and Blue Hills bus to Trailside Museum. For Houghton's Pond area, stay on bus and exit at Hillside St. at Howard Johnson's. Cross at light and walk one mile east on Hillside. Central Area-Red Line to Ashmont, take MBTA bus #240 or #240A southbound, exit at Randolph Ave and Chickatawbut Rd., Chickatawbut Overlook is one mile east, Houghton's Pond is two miles west on Chickatawbut Rd. East Area-Red Line to Quincy Center, take MBTA bus #238, exit at West and Willard Streets across from skating rink, cross rink parking lot to St. Moritz Nature Trail.

By Car: Rt. 128 to Exit 3, Houghton's Pond. Turn right at stop sign onto Hillside St. Houghton's Pond is approximately one mile on the right. Or continue to reservation headquarters on the left, next to the MDC stables.

Breakheart Reservation

Forest Street, Saugus, (617) 233-0834

Open year-round, dawn to dusk.

Vehicle access from Memorial Day to Labor Day, 10:00am to 6:00pm.

Breakheart Reservation is a 640-acre hardwood forest that is accented by jagged, rocky outcroppings, two freshwater lakes, and a rambling section of the Saugus River. Seven rocky hills, over two hundred feet high, provide vistas of Boston, southern New Hampshire, and Central Massachusetts. An extensive trail system through the woodlands guides visitors to various areas of the reservation.

Fishing in Silver and Pearce Lakes, hiking the trails and birdwatching by the Saugus River are popular activities which can be enjoyed year-round. The supervised swimming area at Pearce Lake, one of the few freshwater swimming spots north of Boston, draws crowds in the summer. In addition to its natural resources, the reservation owns a rich cultural history.

The Reservations and Historic Sites Unit has managed Breakheart since 1986. The staff maintains the trails, picnic sites, roads and beach, and offers recreational and interpretive programs to the public.

Free Programs

Visitor Services staff offer year-round interpretive programs which feature the abundant plant and animal life of the woods and ponds as well as reservation management issues and cultural themes of the reservation's past. In the summer, most programs begin at the Pearce Lake swimming area. Many of the programs are suitable for children. In addition, special school programs are offered in the spring for grades K through 12. (All programs subject to staffing.)

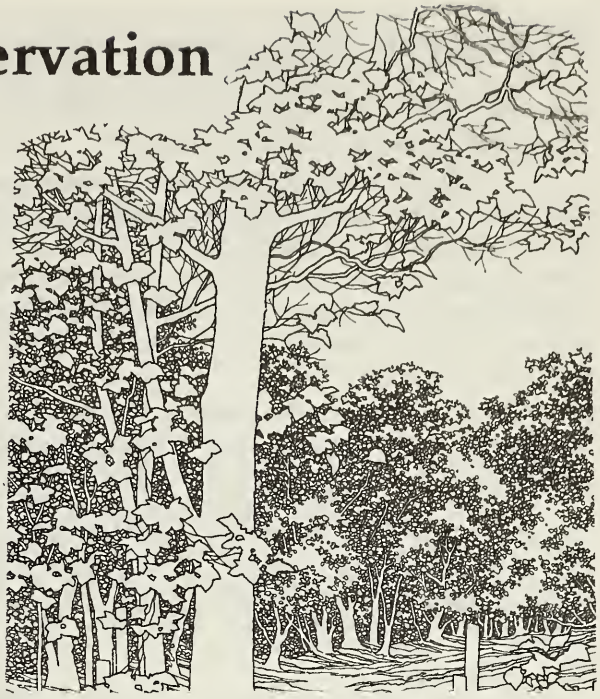
Services and Facilities

Restrooms, first-aid, information, bicycling, fishing, hiking, picnic area, cross-country skiing, swimming, tot lot.

Directions

MBTA: No access. By Car: Route 1 to Lynn Fells Parkway, entrance on Forest Street. Pine Tops Road begins at entrance and loops for two miles with access to picnic areas, ponds and trails.

Hammond Pond Reservation
Lost Pond



Hammond Pond Parkway, Newton
(617) 698-1802
Open year-round, dawn to dusk.

Hammond Pond is a wooded reservation with a large, scenic pond located in the Chestnut Hill section of Newton adjacent to the city's Webster Conservation Area. It is a natural forest with wooded trails and large geological formations. Nearby Lost Pond has a quaking bog and system of natural trails. For more information, please call the reservation headquarters.

Directions

Take Route 9 East or West to the Hammond Pond Parkway Exit. Just North on the Parkway is the reservation parking lot on the right.

Middlesex Fells Reservation

Malden, Medford, Winchester, Stoneham, Melrose
(617) 662-5214 Open year-round, dawn to dusk.

"Fells" is the catchy Saxon word for rocky, hilly tracts of land - an apt name for this scenic area, rich in local history. This picturesque region was once favored for timber, granite quarrying, ice industry, and waterpower for the mills which manufactured the first vulcanized rubber products.

Today, the Middlesex Fells Reservation's 2,060 acres offer a welcome retreat for city dwellers and a suitable terrain for hikers, horseback riders, rock climbers, cross-country skiers and picnickers as well as natural and cultural history buffs.

Special features for visitors include the Sheepfold Picnic Area, Bellevue Pond and Virginia Woods. The Sheepfold is 10 acres of open fields suitable for picnics, frisbee playing and informal games. Bellevue Pond is a seasonal pond surrounded by trails and wide fire roads, some leading up to the stone tower which looks out over the Boston basin. Virginia Woods, the site of a vanished milling village called "Haywardville", is now a dense Hemlock wooded enclave. Please see page 25 for more information on the Middlesex Fells Cross-country Ski Trail.

Free Programs

Programs focusing on the cultural and natural history of the Middlesex Fells Reservation are free and offered to the public year-round. (All programs subject to staffing.)

Services and Facilities

Bicycling, horseback riding, fishing, hiking, observation tower, picnic area, skating rink, cross-country skiing, swimming, tot lot.

Directions

MBTA: Orange Line to Wellington Station, MBTA bus #100 to Elm Street, walk south to the rotary, turn right on South Border Rd., Bellevue Pond and ski area are 1/5 mile right on South Border Rd. Sheepfold Section-when you exit on Elm Street, walk north on Rt. 28 underneath the overpass, sign is on the left. By Car: Take I-93 to exit 33, Rt. 28 Fellsway West, from rotary, go north on th Fellsway or South Border Road, or I-93, exit 34, take Pond Street east to Woodland Rd.. Look for pulloffs.

Quincy Quarries Historic Site

Ricciuti Drive, West Quincy (617) 727-4573 or 698-1802

Open year-round, dawn to dusk.

In 1985, the Metropolitan District Commission purchased twenty-two acres adjacent to the Blue Hills Reservation, including Granite Railway Quarry. It was here, in West Quincy, that America's large-scale granite quarrying industry was born in 1825 when, after an exhaustive search throughout New England, Solomon Willard selected the area as the source of stone for the Bunker Hill Monument in Charlestown. With his development of the revolutionary construction techniques that made hard Quincy granite a practical building stone, Willard earned the title "Father of the Granite Industry."

Here too, the Granite Railway was established in 1826. The Railway is a Civil Engineering Landmark. A pioneer in the American railroad industry, Gridley Bryant, engineered its design and construction and many of his inventions are still in use today.

During the next 140 years, over fifty quarries operated in Quincy, which became known nationwide as "the Granite City." The last active quarry closed in 1963.

Popular activities at the Quincy Quarries Historic Site include hiking, rock climbing, picnicking and scenic viewing. Trail connections to the Blue Hills Reservation are protected by a recent addition of acres.

Free Programs

Visitor Services Staff offer programs year-round that highlight the rich history and natural resources of this unique area. Program topics include: "The Birth of Two Industries," and "Quarries Greenbelt Hike," (All programs subject to staffing.)

Services and Facilities

Hiking, picnic area.

Directions

MBTA: Red Line to Quincy Center, take MBTA bus #215 to Copeland and Willard Streets, turn left on Willard, cross under Expressway and take first right onto Ricciuti Drice. Quarries are 1/4 mile on right. By Car: Route 93 (S.E. Expressway) to Furnace Brook Parkway (exit 8) follow signs to Willard Street and cross under Route 93. Take the first right onto Ricciuti Dr. at Mr. Tux. Quarries are 1/4 mile on right.

Stony Brook Reservation

Turtle Pond Parkway, West Roxbury, Hyde Park

Open year-round, dawn to dusk.

Enneking, Dedham and Turtle Pond Parkways wind their way through extensive tree covered hills and valleys, rock-outcroppings and wetlands, past Turtle Pond, into Hyde Park still further, past an array of recreational facilities. In its 475 acres, Stony Brook Reservation bursts with nature and man-made diversity.

Ten to twelve miles of hiking trails and bicycle paths meander through the quiet, forested portion of the reservation. Sunfish and perch swim in the fresh waters of Turtle Pond, an easily accessible spot for fishing.

In the Reservation's southern section are soccer and baseball fields, tennis courts, picnic areas, an ice skating rink, and a pool. A very special feature is the John F. Thompson Center, New England's first recreational facility designed specifically for the handicapped. Available by reservation only, (See page for more information.)

Services and Facilities

Restrooms, bathhouse, first-aid, handicap access, ballfield, bicycling, fishing, hiking, picnic area, skating rink, swimming pool, tennis, tot lot.

Directions

MBTA: Orange Line to Forest Hills Station, MBTA bus (Dedham) to Turtle Pond Parkway. By Car: From Washington Street at Forest Hills Station, 3 miles on Washington Street, towards Dedham, left onto Turtle Pond Parkway.

RIVER RESERVATIONS

Charles River Reservation

A great greenway, parkway and river corridor, the Charles River Reservation is a 17-mile long linear park system of outstanding diversity and national significance. It is the "Central Park" of metropolitan Boston.

Charles River Dam

The Charles River Dam, located near the Charlestown Bridge, creates the controlled waster levels of the Charles River Basin. The first dam, created in 1910 where the Museum of Science now stands, was the control point for a water basin modeled after the Alster Basin in Hamburg, Germany. The new dam built in 19 houses six huge pumps and assures a cleaner river and better flood control protection. Provisions for the passage of adadromous fish (alewives and shad) and a major system of locks for the passage of boats are featured at the Dam. The Dam is open for tours by appointment only. Call (617) 727-0488 for more information.

Charles River Basin and Esplanade

The completion of the Charles River Dam in 1910 created the opportunity for a major water park with landscaped river naks. Until 1936 the river banks were only narrow bands of green with shaded walkways. The generous gift of $1 million from Helen Storrow in memory of her husband, James, allowed landscape architect Arthur Shurcliff to design the lagoons and additional parklands we enjoy today.

Concerts which had started in 1910 became famous with the first Boston Pops concert in 1929 and in 1940 the Hatch Memorial Shell was completed.

The history of public recreation on the Basin includes Frederick Law Olmsted's design for the Charlesbank, the first public playground in the country completed in 1889; the programs of community boating whose building was completed in 1941; and the Paul Dudley White Bicycle Path dedicated in 1960.

John F. Kennedy Park

Continuing upstream from the Basin, there is John F. Kennedy Park located on Memorial Drive in Cambridge. This 5-acre site is intended for the public's passive enjoyment as a pedestrian corridor with benches and a memorial fountain. The park uses materials indigenous to NewEngland including granite for the foundation and entrance pillars, which are enscribed with quotations from the President's speeches, and a variety of trees native to the region.

Landry Park/Lakes District

The dam at Moody Street in Waltham creates the "Lakes District", an extensive area of flat water and flooded meadow. At Waltham Center Landry Park and its fish ladder create a pleasant open park adjacent to the Charles River Museum of Industry. Upstream a new "river walk" opens the river for bicyclists and pedestrians to Prospect Street. The Lakes District offers excellent canoeing and winter ice fishing.

Forest Grove Reservation

Forest Grove in Newton offers a limited area of woods and fields for nature study, picnicking or just relaxing. Superb views and cool breezes can be enjoyed by bird watchers and fishermen alike. Boating , canoeing, fishing and hiking are offered at the park Open year-round, dawn to dusk. For more information call (617) 484-6357.

Hemlock Gorge Reservation

Hemlock Gorge in Needham and Newton, is a small 23-acre wild area along the banks of the Charles River. The park is dominated by the steep gorge, the river, its surrounding stands of Hemlock trees and Echo Bridge, a huge granite brick structure that spans the river and gorge. When built in 1877 by the Boston Water Works, the bridge was the second largest masonry arch in the United States. In 1982, it was designated a National Historic Landmark. Atop the bridge, one is afforded fabulous views of the river and neighboring lands. From a platform beneath the bridge's central arch, visitors have long enjoyed testing the echo that gave the structure its name. One of the first parcels acquired by the Metropolitan Parks Commission (precursor to the MDC), Hemlock Gorge's value as an open natural space within the metropolitan area continues to be as great as in 1895, when the Commission originally set it aside for preservation. Open year-round, dawn to dusk. For more information call (617) 698-1802.

Brook Farm Historic Site

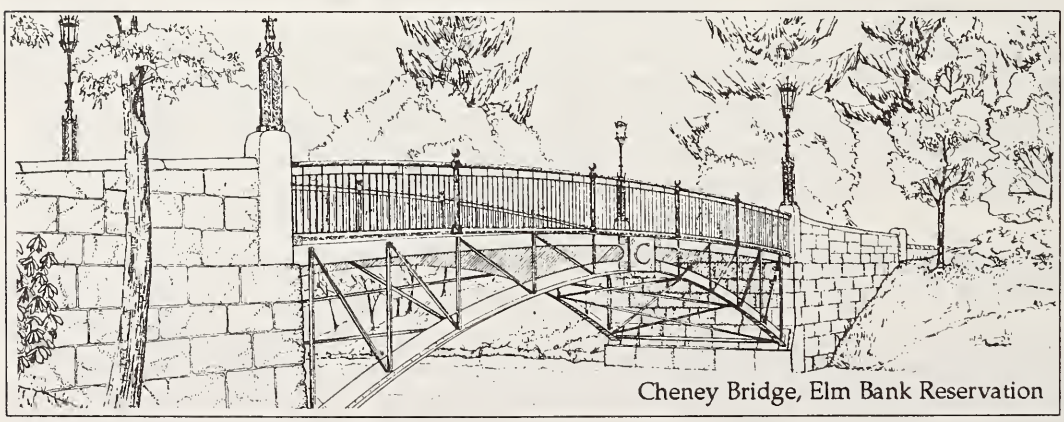
This National Historic Landmark is 179 acres of rolling fields, woodland and wetland and was the location of the experiemental society of Transcendentalists who lived on the farm in the 1840's. Tours are offered periodically throughout the year. The farm is located 1/3 mile west of the VFW Parkway on Baker Street in West Roxbury. For more information please call (617) 698-1802.

Village Falls Park

Located at Red Wing Bay at Charles River Village in Needham, this scenic park provides passive recreation as well as a canoe launching site for the Charles River. The park is located off of South and Fisher Streets. Open year-round, dawn to dusk. For more information call (617) 698-1802.

Cutler Park

Cutler Park's 600 acres make it the largest remaining fresh water marsh on the middle Charles. Located in Needham and Dedham, the marsh and small lake attract over one hundred species of birds also making Cutler Park a prime spot for nature study. Other activities suitable to this wetland preserve are hiking, canoeing and fishing. Open year-round, dawn to dusk. For more information on this park call (617) 698-1802.



Cheney Bridge, Elm Bank Reservation

Elm Bank Reservation

Elm Bank Reservation, located in Wellesley, is one of the most recent MDC parkland acquisition. The 182 acres of woodlands, fields, and old estate property is surrounded on three sides by the Charles River. The reservation is listed on the National Register of Historic Places for its many elements of estate landscaping. A variety of wildlife, including deer, thrive in the upland habitats and along the river. The reservation is open Wednesday through Sunday 9:00 a.m. to dusk. For more information call (617) 698-1802.

Mystic River Reservation

The banks of the Mystic River are almost entirely within public ownership, from the Amelia Earhart Dam at the mouth to the Mystic Lakes, making it one of the Commonwealth's best protected streams. It has been much altered since the 1800's when its shores were largely saltmarsh and some of the most famous shipyards on the continent were in Medford.

Mary O'Malley Park

Acquired from the federal government after the closing of the historic Chelsea Naval Hospital, the park has striking views of the harbor and Tobin (Mystic River) Bridge. A boat landing and shelter are located on an historic granite peir. A wind sculpture by William Wainwright enlivens the waterfront. Tennis courts and a large open grassy area for concerts and picnicking are also available. The park is open year-round, dawn to dusk.

Torbert McDonald Park

Honoring a United States Congressman who served the district for twenty-one years, McDonald Park reclaimed a dredge spoiled area left after the construction of I-93. The award-winning landscape design of meanering paths, trees and open lawns provides space for rest and enjoyment as well as bicycling, jogging, walking and informal games in a riverside setting.

Draw Seven Park

The Draw Number Seven Railroad Bridge crossing the Mystic River gives this park its name, honoring the now replaced structure. Built in cooperation with the MBTA, this park provides much needed field game space for Somerville and adjacent communities. Draw Seven Park offers nine acres of parkland which includes two soccer fields, a bikeway/walkway, a picnic area with shelter and beautiful lanscaping.

Mystic Lakes

At the time the Metropolitan Parks Commission was organized, the shores of the lakes were in large estates. In part through generous gifts of land, the eastern shores became part of the park system. The western shores were never acquired and were subdivided into smaller house lots. Today the Mystic Lakes are popular for freshwater swimming at Sandy Beach. Special sailing programs are available from the Tufts University boat house.

Neponset River Reservation

The Neponset River, unlike the Charles and Mystic, remains a natural estuary with extensive marshlands at its mouth and significant freshwater wetlands along much of its upstream length. It provides an unusually rich and diverse habitat for both plants and animals and hosts a number of threatened and/or endangered species.

Dorchester Shores Reservation

Malibu Beach, Victory Road Park, and Tenean Beach provide the public with coastal access along the extended mouth of the Neponset River. Malibu Beach offers protected swimming; Victory Road Park is a passive park with indigenous planting on a reclaimed landfill; Tenean Beach is a popular swimming beach with playground facilities and tennis courts.. Together these facilities are an important link in a planned continuous pathway and greenway system from Castle Island to the Neponset River.

Squantum Point Park

The Squantum Meadows were used as an airfield in the early 1900's. The site became the Massachusetts School for Naval Air Service in 1917 and within the year, the U.S. Naval Air Station,, Squantum. At the same time the Bethlehem Shipbuilding Corp. was building 140 destroyers on 70 acres of the waterfront. Today, the site is used in part for worker parking and a water shuttle stop for the MWRA as well as a public park access to the waters of Dorchester Bay. The airfield, now overgrown, is outstanding bird habitat. The park will be fully redesigned when the MWRA no longer requires use of the site.

Fowl Meadow

Designated as an Area of Critical Environmental Concern, the meadow is important habitat for wildlife and a source of drinking water for Dedham and Westwood. The Burma Road, a service roadway over an underground sewer, provides the public with a trail for nature study in the meadow between Pauls Bridge at Neponset Valley Parkway and Route 128.

Neponset Marshes

The estuarine portion of the Neponset River upstream of Granite Avenue is characterized by extensive tidal marshes. Granite bound for Boston from Quincy was transferred from early rail to boats ot a pier on the Milton shore. This segment of the river offers interesting canoeing and nature study opportunities. The recent acquisition of the bordering railroad right-of-way offers an excellent "rail-to-trail" opportunity.

COASTAL RESERVATIONS

Belle Isle Marsh Reservation

Bennington Street, East Boston, (617) 727-5350

Open year-round, 9:00 a.m. to dusk.

Belle Isle Marsh Reservation preserves 152 acres of the 241-acre Belle Isle Marsh, the last remaining salt marsh in Boston. A unique place to explore, the reservation exemplifies the type of wetlands that once lined the Massachusetts Bay shore. Centuries of flourishing plant life have made the marsh more fertile than the richest farmland. Its protected waters are nurseries to fish and shellfish and are critical habitat to many saltmarsh plants and wildlife rare to the metropolitan area.

In addition to the preservation of the natural areas of the marsh, the Metropolitan District Commisison manages 28 acres of landscaped park with pathways, benches and an observation tower.

Free Programs

Guided walks explain the natural and cultural history of Belle Isle. Topics covered include saltmarsh ecology and the history of man's use of and impact on the marsh. Special programs for community and school groups can also be arranged by contacting the reservation. (All programs subject to staffing.)

Services and Facilities

Information, handicap access, hiking, observation tower.

Directions

MBTA: Blue Line to Suffolk Downs Station, exit onto Bennington St., turn left, entrance 500 yards on right. By Car: From south take 93N through Callahan Tunnel onto Rt. 1A, take second exit (Winthrop/Chelsea) onto Bennington St. Continue 1.5 miles to main entrance on right. From north take Rt. 1A south, left at the Ramada Inn sign in E. Boston and follow Boardman St. to Bennington St. Take a left onto Bennington, continue for a half mile, entrance is on the right.

Boston Harbor Islands

(617) 727-5250

The Boston Harbor Islands are a unique natural and cultural resource located just 45 minutes from Downtown Boston. Visitors can enjoy picnicking, hiking, camping, and learn about wildlife and military fortifications from our island staff, and see spectacular views of the sea and the Boston skyline.

This park is operated cooperatively by the MDC and the Department of Environmental Management (DEM). The MDC manages Georges, Lovells and Peddocks Islands.

Ferry Service

Ferry service is available from Long Wharf (near the Aquarium), Hingham Ship Yard and Lynn Heritage Park. Ferries transport visitors to Georges Island where a water taxi can be taken to the other islands. These private ferries charge a small fee. Please call the ferry lines for fare and schedule information: Bay State Cruise Lines, 723-7800; Boston Harbor Cruises, 227-4321; Massachusetts Bay Lines, 749-4500. Water taxi information is available at the park office, 727-5290.

Day use permits are required for groups of 25 or more. Permits are also required for camping and school groups. Please refer to page 18 for permit information.

Docking

Limited docking space is available for private boats at Georges Island on a first-come-first-served basis. On all other islands docks are available for off-loading only. Small pram are available for anchoring off-shore.

Georges Island

This 28-acre island is dominated by Fort Warren, a National Historic Landmark. Constructed between 1833 and 1869 of hand-hewn granite from the neighboring communities of Quincy and Cape Ann, Fort Warren achieved national prominence during the Civil War as a prison for captured Confederates. For over a century it served as a key location for the defense of Boston. Georges Island now serves as the entrance to the Boston Harbor Islands State Park and provides inter-island water taxi service, rest room facilities, running water and a concession stand. Georges is open to the public from May through mid-October.

Programs

Park rangers provide fort tours, historical programs and slide shows. Natural history and harbor pollution programs are also offered. Special school programs and curriculum materials are available. Contact the park office for a schedule of events.

Services and Facilities

Restrooms, first-aid, information, handicap access, concession, boating, fishing, hiking, observation tower, picnic area.

Lovells Island

Characterized by its long beaches and diverse wildlife, 62-acre Lovells Island is a peaceful and primitive island. Along its shores there are both rocky tide pools, sand dunes and some of the best views of the outer harbor. Lovells Island has the only designated swimming beach of the harbor islands. Water quality is tested on a regular basis to ensure a healthy beach.

Hidden in the center of the island are the remnants of Fort Standish, a turn-of-the-century military installation. Lovells is also rich in nautical lore and stories of pirates and shipwrecks. The marsh, grassland, and wooded areas attract a great variety of birds and support a large population of rabbits. Individual and group camp sites provide a unique island experience. Lovells Island is accessible by the free water taxi from Georges Island during the summer months.

Programs

Special events and daily programs bring alive the military history, folklore, geology, water quality, plants and birds of the island. Contact the park office for a schedule of events.

Services and Facilities

Restrooms, first-aid, camping, fishing, hiking, picnic area, swimming, magnificent views. No electricity or running water.

Peddocks Island

One of the largest and most diverse, this 134-acre island features cool woodlands, open fields, rocky beaches and a saltmarsh. The east head of Peddocks contains the buildings and gun batteries of Fort Andrews, active in harbor defense from 1904 to the end of World War II. There is a freshwater pond and wildlife sanctuary on the west head. Displays in the visitor's center offer insights to the island's unique natural and military history. Camping is a great way to enjoy Peddocks Island to its fullest. The island is accessible by water taxi from Georges Island during the summer months.

Programs

Park rangers offer island walks, fort tours, and special events that highlight the military use, folklore, and natural history of the island and the harbor. Contact the park office for a schedule of events.

Services and Facilities

Restrooms, first-aid, information, boating, camping, fishing, hiking, observation tower, picnic area. No electricity.

Castle Island

Day Boulevard, South Boston (617) 727-5250

Open year-round.

Fort Independence is open from Memorial Day to Columbus Day, hours vary.

Fort Independence, a pentagonal five-bastioned granite fort built between 1834 and 1851, is the dominating feature of Castle Island. This 22-acre urban park is connected to the mainland by both pedestrian and vehicular causeways. The fort and the island are on the State and National Registers of Historic Places, and Fort Independence is a national historic landmark.

Fort tours are conducted by the Castle Island Association in the summer months and there is interpretive signage for self-guided tours. The principle program theme, the History of Castle Island, stresses the role of the fort in harbor defense. Please call the Harbor Region office at 727-5290 for information on school programming. (All programs subject to staffing.)

Services and Facilities

Restrooms, information, handicap access, concession, bicycling, fishing, observation tower, picnic area, sailing, swimming, tot lot.

Directions

MBTA: Red Line to Broadway Station, MBTA bus #9 or #11 to the end of the line. Walk to the right across Marine Park to the beach, walk left along the beach to the entrance of the fort. By Car: Rte. 3 to JFK exit, follow beach along William J. Day Blvd., Castle Island is at the end of the Causeway.

Fort Revere

Hull (617) 727-5290

Located atop Telegraph Hill in the historic Pemberton section of Hull, this site was first fortified cica 1776. Originally called Fort Independence, the site included a pentagonal fortification with twenty-two cannon which dominated the southerly approaches to Boston Harbor. Traces of their original earthworks still remain. Re-named Fort Revere, the site was converted into a major coastal defense fortification in the late 1800's. It was de-activated in the 1960's and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The MDC is currently developing plans to rehabilitate the site. For more information on this site, please call the MDC at (617) 727-5290.

Directions

Take Nantasket Avenue to Farina Road to the top of the hill.

Lightship "Nantucket I" WLV 612

Marina Bay, Quincy (617) 727-5290

Open seasonally May to October, hours vary.

One of the newest MDC facilities, the Nantucket I WLV 612, was the last U.S. lightship in commission by the U.S. Coast Guard. This unique historic vessel is currently undergoing restoration and will operate as a floating museum and will operate within the Boston Harbor Islands State Park and Massachusetts Bay.

Directions

From points north take SE Expressway to Quincy/Neponset. Take a right at the yellow flashing light. Go over the Neponset River Bridge, take the first right and follow signs to Marina Bay. From points south take Rt. 128 South or Rt. 3 North to the SE Expressway. Get off at Adams St./Milton Exit 9. Go through two sets of lights and take a right onto Squantum St. Continue for 5-6 miles and Marina Bay Bay in 1/4 mile on the left.

Lynn-Nahant Beach Reservation

Lynn-Nahant (617) 581-1956

Open year-round, dawn to dusk. Summers dawn to 11:00 p.m.

An impressive seascape can be viewed from 2 1/2 miles of ocean front property. Late June to Labor Day, visitors soak up the sun or cool off in the shallow, unpolluted water of Nahant Bay. Lifeguards are stationed on both Nahant Beach and nearby King's Beach.

Joggers and walkers throng the reservation's promenade and the vast beach of hard-packed sand provides welcome open space at low tide. At Red Rock, tidepools are alive with the vivid color of marine plants. At low tide, the rocky shore can be safely approached from King's Beach. Children will enjoy making their own discoveries of scurrying hermit crabs and bright green sea urchins.

Recreation fields offer baseball, raquetball and tennis. A tot-lot adjoins the bathhouse where shower facilities are available free of charge. Comfort stations are located nearby both on the promenade and one mile to the south on the causeway. A parking lot for up to 1,300 vehicles allows quick and easy access to the beach but visitors should take care not to damage vegetation when crossing the dunes.

The Commission acquired the reservation in 1900. All private buildings, including Samuel Soule's 1855 *Hotel Nahant w*ere removed in order to allow public access to the coast.

Free Programs

Interpretive programs and beach-related recreational activities are offered year-round. School programming features marine biology and oceanography. Contact reservation staff for further information. (All programs subject to staffing.)

Services and Facilities

Restrooms, bathhouse, first-aid, information, concession, ballfield, bandstand, bicycling, boat launch, fishing, hiking, picnic area, swimming, tennis, tot lot.

Directions

MBTA: From Haymarket Station to Central Square, Lynn, take MBTA bus #400, 440, 441 or 442, or commuter rail, or take Blue Line to Wonderland, bus #441 or 442 (Marblehead). From Central Square take bus #439 to the rotary near bathhouse.
By Car: Lynnway (Rt. 1A) to Carroll Highway to Lynn Shore Drive.

Nantasket Beach Reservation

Nantasket Avenue, Hull (617) 727-5293

Open year round, dawn to dusk.

Lifeguards on duty from late June to early September.

Nantasket Beach has been a popular summer destination for people from the urban areas since the middle of the nineteenth century. The Reservation encompasses 26 acres along 1.3 miles of oceanfront. The historic Carousel, privately operated through agreement, evokes the amusement park past of the area. Band concerts and public dancing are a popular summertime feature.

Directions

By Car: Take Route 3A South to Washington Boulevard, Hingham to Nantasket Avenue, Hull.

Rumney Marsh Reservation

Saugus, Revere (617) 662-5214

Open year-round, dawn to dusk

Rumney Marsh, a 600+ acre reservation, is located within the rich Saugus and Pines River estuary. This expansive saltmarsh provides habitat for a wide array of wildlife including migratory birds and marine life. The reservation also provides recreational opportunities such as boating, fishing, walking, and bird watching. Free programs relating to natural and cultural history are also offered

Free Programs

Natural and cultural history walks related to the area are offered.
Call 662-5214 for more information.

Directions

MBTA: Take the MBTA Lynn/Salem Bus to Route 107, Salem Turnpike and enter at the embankment.
By Car: Take Callahan Tunnel to Route 1 North, continue through Bell Circle and at Brown Circle take aright onto Route 107 North, Salem Turnpike. At the Bristow lights make a u-turn reversing direction and continue for 1/2 mile to the embankment entrance on the right.

Stodder's Neck Reservation

Hingham/Weymouth (617) 727-5293

Open year-round, dawn to dusk

A peninsula on the Hingham/Weymouth line at the mouth of the Back River, Stodder's Neck was once an unsightly gravel pit. Reclaimed and relandscaped in a manner reminiscent of Frederick Law Olmsted's work at World's End, this passive park provides harborside walking trails and a hilltop view of the Back River.

Directions

MBTA: No access.
By Car: From Boston take Route 3A South to Lincoln Street in Hingham

Wollaston Beach Reservation

Quincy Shore Drive, Quincy

(617) 727-5293 or 773-7954 (summer only)

Open year-round, dawn to dusk. Bathhouse open June to September.

Wollaston Beach Reservation offers a variety of recreational opportunities. Quincy Shore Drive links Wollaston Beach with Caddy Memorial Park and Moswetuset Hummock to provide a unique blend of landscapes.

The 2.3 mile beach is popular for its jogging/bicycling trail and swimming. Caddy Park, on the southern end of the beach, has over 15 acres of fields and marshland complete with play area, lookout tower and picnic tables.

Moswetuset Hummock, on the beach's northern end, is a Natural Historic Site. Once a summer campsite of the Massachusetts Indians during the 1600's, it is a mixture of woodland trails and open marshland. The site's short loop trail offers views of Quincy Bay and 144-acre New Squantum Marsh.

Services and Facilities

Bathhouse, handicap access, bicycling, fishing, hiking, observation tower, picnic area, swimming, tot lot.

Directions

MBTA: Caddy Park-Red Line to Wollaston Street, proceed to Hancock St., turn right and walk one block to Beach Street, turn left on beach and continue on Quincy Shore Drive. Moswetuset Hummock-Red Line to Quincy Center or North Quincy Station, MBTA bus #211 to Squantum, exit at E. Squantum St and Quincy Shore Drive, proceed to small wooded knoll 200 yards east.

WATERSHED REGION

The Metropolitan Watersheds are lands that contribute rainfall to the reservoirs. These watersheds are monitored to protect the reservoirs from over-development and to assure that the high quality of the water supplied to the distribution systems is maintained. The lands also provide the most extensive areas of woodland habitat in Massachusetts. The watersheds are habitat for wild turkeys, bald eagles, deer, coyote, and bear as well as the more familiar ducks, songbirds, and beaver.

Management stresses water quality values and water production. Forestry Management controlls hunting and fishing, which are permitted during specific periods within posted limits. Fall foliage viewing, birding, snow shoeing and scenic drives attract thousands of visitors each year. Directions to each reservoir can be obtained by calling the district offices listed below.

Quabbin Reservoir

Belchertown, MA (413) 323-7221

Open year-round, dawn to dusk. Fishing season mid-April to mid-October.

Quabbin Reservoir is one of the largest man-made domestic water supplies in the United States. It was created in the 1930's by the construction of two huge earth dams that were used to contain the waters of the three branches of the Swift River. It remains a great engineering feat and one of the largest untreated water supplies in the world.

The Quabbin Reservoir water surface covers 39.4 square miles. The Reservoir is eighteen miles long and has 181 miles of shoreline. Fishing is a popular activity at the Reservoir. Quabbin's fishery is comprised of both coldwater and warmwater species. (Fishing licenses are required.) Boat rentals and parking are available throughout the season.

Wachusett Reservoir

Clinton, MA (508) 365-3272

Open year-round, dawn to dusk. Fishing season, mid-April to mid-October (shore fishing only).

Wachusett Reservoir was constructed between 1898 and 1905 and together with the Quabbin Reservoir provides the water supply for over forty cities and towns within the Commonwealth. Comprised of 107 square miles of watershed lands, over 4,100 acres of water surface with a storage capacity of 65 billion gallons, its natural resources are vast and varied.

With 36 miles of shoreline, the area's primary recreational advantage is shore fishing. Persons 15 years of age or older possessing a valid Massachusetts fishing license are allowed at designated areas around the reservoir.

Sudbury Reservoir

Southborough, MA (508) 365-3272

Open year-round, dawn to dusk. Fishing season, mid-April to mid-October (shore fishing only).

Sudbury Reservoir is the watershed ready-reserve system water supply reservoir. Constructed in the 1890's, it has served as a back-up supply for Quabbin and Wachusett Reservoirs for the past 15 years. The reservoir holds 7.5 billion gallons of water and has 38 miles of shoreline, which is used extensively for fishing.

A new public access and recreational management plan for the Sudbury watershed area is currently in development and is expected to be implemented in 1993.

Preserving the past... protecting the future.
Continued from inside cover.

In 1900 the Metropolitan Park Commissioners prepared an exhibit of the parks for Paris Exposition (including a one ton plaster topographical model now at the Museum of Science). It was subsequently exhibited at the Pan American Exhibition in Buffalo, the Louisiana Purchase Exposition in St. Louis, and the Lewis and Clark Centennial Exposition in Portland. In 1910, report of international competition for the planning of greater Berlin included a full page map of the metropolitan park system and photographs of the Blue Hills Reservation and Revere Beach.

Today we celebrate 100 successful years of park stewardship. The system has withstood the test of time contributing every day to the quality of life of the millions who live, work or visit metropolitan Boston.

The child who learns to swim in Pleasure Bay who clambers up Great Blue Hill for the first grand view, or catches a first fish in Turtle Pond; the thousands who enjoy the Charles River while commuting on Storrow Drive or crowd the Hatch Shell for the ballet or the Fourth of July; the senior golfers who tee off every morning; the joggers, canoeists, sailors, skaters, cyclists and amateur naturalists all depend on this great park system.

So too do the Great Blue Herons, showy Lady Slippers, timber rattlesnakes, pickerel, pike hawks and owls, strands of hemlock and swamp maple, estuary marshes and barrier beaches; the flora and fauna and habitats that make our area distinctive, healthy and stimulating.

The next one hundred years will bring new and demanding challenges to the park system's environmental quality, public management, and standards of use. It will take the energy and commitment of all of us who use and enjoy this great park system to "preserve the past and protect the future".

Preserving the past... protecting the future
MDC
Metropolitan Parks System
1893 1993

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Metropolitan District Commission

William F. Weld, *Governor*
Argeo Paul Cellucci, *Lt. Governor*
Susan F. Tierney, *Secretary, EOEA*
M. Ilyas Bhatti, *Commissioner, MDC*

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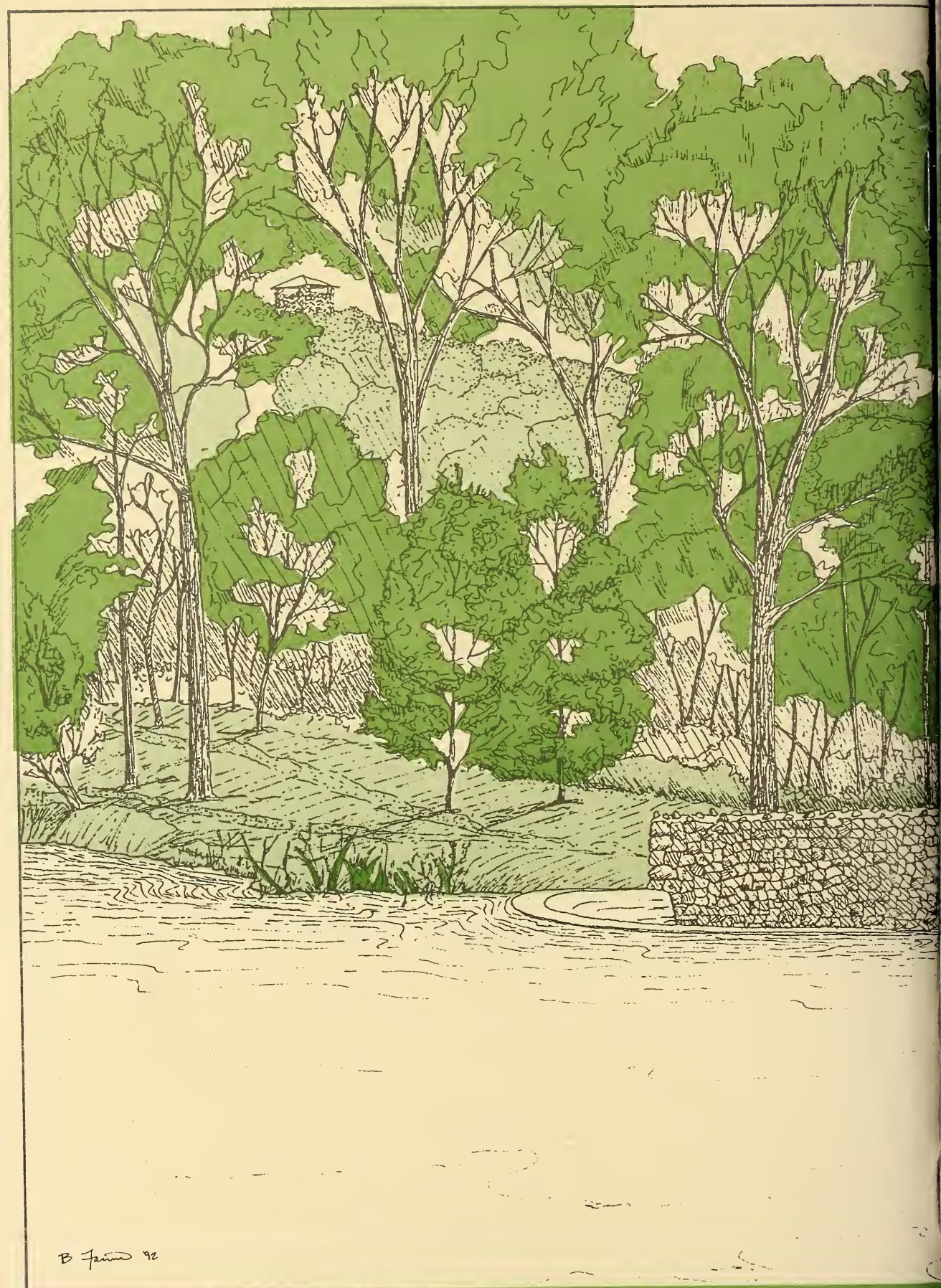
On the cover: Bellevue Pond in the Middlesex Fells Reservation as drawn by Barbara Farina, CEIP Intern, Summer 1992. Map by Glenn Hazelton. Research and graphic design by Carol Arsenault.

Publication No. 17236 - 16 - 100M - 11/92 - .16 - C.R. Approved by: Philmore Anderson III, State Purchasing Agent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